

# The Public Connection

Statewide Articulation Agreements Between  
Iowa's Community Colleges and  
Public Universities

*A Report of the  
Liaison Advisory Committee on Transfer Students (LACTS)  
Fall 2010*

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## **Liaison Advisory Committee on Transfer Students (LACTS)**

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*Permission to copy this material need not be sought.*

## About the Liaison Advisory Committee on Transfer Students (LACTS)

Iowa can be proud of its long-standing history of voluntary articulation efforts between public institutions of higher education. Soon after the creation of the Iowa's community colleges in 1966, discussions of transfer issues began with the public universities. One of the most successful committees to come out of these early meetings was the Liaison Advisory Committee on Transfer Students (LACTS). First organized in 1972 and confirmed as an ongoing advisory committee in 1973, LACTS continues to have an active role in facilitating transfer.

The LACTS committee exists to help make the student transition among Iowa public institutions of higher education as smooth and seamless as possible. LACTS welcomes and encourages individuals and/or institutions to bring articulation issues or concerns to their attention. They may do so by contacting any member of the committee. LACTS has six voting members, with three representatives from the community colleges, and a representative from each of the public universities and three ex-officio members. The community college representatives are appointed by and report to the Iowa Association of Community College Presidents. The regent representatives are appointed by and report to the Regents Committee on Educational Relations (RCER). While LACTS is an advisory group with no official policy-making authority, their recommendations are highly respected and often implemented.

LACTS was originally created in response to transcript and grading symbol issues, but soon became involved in all types of transfer topics. Over the years, the committee has been influential in the development of several areas of initial agreement between the community colleges and the public universities, including the following:

- Common grading symbols and definitions agreement.
- Career and technical credit agreement.
- International student academic and credential e evaluation agreement.
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP) agreement.
- Electronics/electronics-based technology agreement.
- Military credit agreement.
- Associate of Arts agreement.
- Associate of Science agreement.

Six (6) of the eight agreements have undergone one or more revisions since they were implemented (e.g., CLEP agreement was expanded to include Advanced Placement Program [APP] and institutional examinations).

LACTS meets several times a year to discuss and respond to articulation issues. It also hosts an annual statewide articulation meeting each spring at which time all written statewide articulation agreements are reviewed and reaffirmed. Representatives of the Iowa community college arts and sciences administrators, career and technical education deans, and chief student services administrators, and the Iowa public university deans of liberal arts and directors of admissions participate. Staffs from the Department of Education and Board of Regents are also present. LACTS historical records are housed in the archives at Iowa State University.

## Associate of Arts Articulation Agreement

It is understood that the following requirements will be met by all students transferring with an Associate of Arts degree from an Iowa community college to an Iowa public university, specifically Iowa State University, the University of Iowa, or the University of Northern Iowa:

1. The Associate of Arts degree will include a minimum of 60 semester hours of courses designed and acceptable for transfer, and may include up to 16 semester hours of career-technical courses.
2. General education courses are defined as those courses which broaden student knowledge in the arts and sciences. Forty (40) semester hours of transfer credit will be required within the following general divisions:
  - a. Communications—8 semester hours
  - b. Humanities—8 semester hours
  - c. Mathematics and Science—8 semester hours (at least one course in each)
  - d. Social Science—8 semester hours
  - e. Distributed Requirement—8 semester hours taken from among the above four divisions.\*
3. The remaining 20 semester hours will be accepted from arts and sciences electives designed and acceptable for transfer, with the understanding that up to 16 semester hours of ungraded (pass/satisfactory) career-technical credit could be applied.
4. Where foreign language proficiency and/or course(s) in foreign culture, multi-cultural and/or diversity are required at a public university, students must meet those specific requirements.
5. Students transferring an Associate of Arts degree to a public university must have maintained a minimum cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 2.0 on all graded arts and sciences courses acceptable for transfer. (**Note:** Transfer GPA does not typically include developmental or career-technical credits.)
6. Having fulfilled the above requirements, students transferring with an Associate of Arts degree to a public university will have met all freshman and sophomore level general education requirements for the college of liberal arts or other participating colleges within the public universities.
7. Students satisfying the above requirements will be enrolled at junior level status in the college of liberal arts or other participating colleges within the public universities.\*\*

8. Students not completing the Associate of Arts degree may be admitted to any of the three public universities; however, this admittance will require a course-by-course evaluation of the student's transcripts.
9. The chair of the LACTS will initiate a meeting each spring, where the current agreement is reviewed by the following:
  - a. Arts and Science Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
  - b. Deans of Liberal Arts—Iowa Public Universities
  - c. Chief Student Services Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
  - d. Directors of Admissions—Iowa Public Universities
  - e. Career-Technical Deans—Iowa Community Colleges

Continuation of the agreement remains in effect until such time as all cooperating institutions formally approve any revisions.

Approved: 12/02/81  
Revised: 12/17/88  
Revised: 04/16/04  
Revised: 04/18/08  
Reaffirmed: 04/16/10

\*For Iowa State University, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, at least three of the eight hours must be in the humanities and at least three of the eight hours must be in natural (physical and biological) sciences. For Iowa State University, College of Business, general education coursework must include three hours of ethics and three hours in global perspectives.

\*\*Participating colleges include:

- Iowa State University, College of Business and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- University of Iowa, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; College of Education; and Henry B. Tippie College of Business
- University of Northern Iowa, all undergraduate colleges within the university.

## Associate of Science Articulation Agreement

It is understood that the following requirements will be met by all students transferring with an Associate of Arts degree from an Iowa community college to an Iowa public university, specifically Iowa State University, the University of Iowa, or the University of Northern Iowa:

1. The Associate of Science degree will include a minimum of 60 semester hours of courses designed and acceptable for transfer, and may include up to 16 semester hours of career and technical courses.
2. The Associate of Science degree will include 40 semester hours of transfer credit within the following general divisions:
  - a. Communications—8 semester hours
  - b. Humanities and Social Science—8 semester hours
  - c. Mathematics and Science—8 semester hours (at least one course in each)
  - d. Distributed Requirement—4 semester hours taken from among the above divisions
3. The remaining 20 semester hours will be accepted from arts and sciences electives designed and acceptable for transfer, with the understanding that up to 16 semester hours of ungraded (pass/satisfactory) career and technical credit could be applied.
4. Where foreign language proficiency and/or course(s) in foreign culture, multi-cultural and/or diversity are required at a public university, students must meet those specific requirements. This requirement may be met at the public university and is not a requirement for the Associate of Sciences degree at the community college.
5. Students transferring an Associate of Science degree to a public university must have maintained a minimum cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 2.0 on all graded arts and sciences courses acceptable for transfer. (**Note:** Transfer GPA does not typically include developmental or career and technical education credits.)
6. Students satisfying the above requirements will be enrolled at junior level status in the college of liberal arts or other participating colleges within the public universities. Additional general education requirements may be required by the public universities depending upon the major.\*
7. Students not completing the Associate of Science degree may be admitted to any of the three public universities; however, this admittance will require a course-by-course evaluation of the student's transcripts.

8. The chair of the LACTS will initiate a meeting each spring, where the current agreement is reviewed by the following:

- a. Arts and Science Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
- b. Deans of Liberal Arts—Iowa Public Universities
- c. Chief Student Services Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
- d. Directors of Admissions—Iowa Public Universities
- e. Career and Technical Deans—Iowa Community Colleges

Continuation of the agreement remains in effect until such time as all cooperating institutions formally approve any revisions.

9. Continuation of the agreement (first effective fall 2007) is contingent upon approval of all cooperating institutions.

Approved: 04/18/08

Reaffirmed: 04/16/10

\*Participating colleges include:

--Iowa State University, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

--University of Iowa, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; College of Education; and Henry B. Tippie College of Business

--University of Northern Iowa, All Undergraduate Colleges within the University of Northern Iowa



## Career and Technical Credit Agreement

Iowa's community colleges and Iowa's public universities agree that:

1. The public universities' college of liberal arts and/or other participating colleges within the public universities will accept up to 16 semester hours of career and technical credit that the sending Iowa community college accepts toward the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science Degrees.
2. Credit for these 16 semester hours is accepted on an ungraded (pass/satisfactory) basis. (Transfer GPA does not typically include career and technical credits.)
3. Each of Iowa's community colleges will honor the internal articulation policies of the other Iowa community colleges.
4. This agreement will not supersede any existing program-to-program articulation agreements or substitute for any reached at a later date between any individual Iowa community College and an Iowa public university.
5. The chair of the LACTS will initiate a meeting each spring, where the current agreement is reviewed by the following:
  - a. Arts and Science Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
  - b. Deans of Liberal Arts—Iowa Public Universities
  - c. Chief Student Services Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
  - d. Directors of Admissions—Iowa Public Universities
  - e. Career and Technical Deans—Iowa Community Colleges

Continuation of the agreement remains in effect until such time as all cooperating institutions formally approve any revisions.

Approved: 06/06/75

Revised: 04/16/04

Reaffirmed: 04/16/10

## Common Grading Symbols and Definitions Agreement

In order to facilitate the effective transfer of Iowa community college students to the public universities, we agree to the following:

1. Iowa's community colleges will use the common master list of grade symbols and definitions below.
2. Each of Iowa's community college will choose from the common master list the symbols and definitions which best reflect the philosophy of their institution.
3. The public universities will recognize without alteration, the common grading symbols as reported by the community colleges.
4. The use of common grading symbols does not guarantee the transferability of the credit attached to any specific symbol.
5. This agreement will be reviewed by the LACTS on an annual basis. Any suggestions for changes, additions, or deletions should be referred to the LACTS.

### Symbols Used in Calculating GPAs\*

A = Excellent

B = Above Average

C = Average

D = Below Average

F = Failure

### Symbols Not Used in Calculating GPAs\*

I = Incomplete

W = Withdrew

X = Course Repeated

N = Audit

P = Credit Earned/Pass

Q = No Credit/No Pass (used in Pass/No Pass Courses only)

R = Required—No Credit

T = Credit Granted for Examination (test out)

L = Credit Granted for Experiential Learning

O = Grade Requit (to be used only when the prior grade is removed)

Y = Withdrew Passing

Z = Withdrew Failing

E = Excused Without Credit

\*Plus and minus are used by some colleges.

6. The chair of the LACTS will initiate a meeting each spring, where the current agreement is reviewed by the following:

- a. Arts and Science Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
- b. Deans of Liberal Arts—Iowa Public Universities
- c. Chief Student Services Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
- d. Directors of Admissions—Iowa Public Universities
- e. Career and Technical Deans—Iowa Community Colleges

Continuation of the agreement remains in effect until such time as all cooperating institutions formally approve any revisions.

Approved: 07/13/73

Revised: 04/16/04

Reaffirmed: 04/16/10

## **Credit by Examination Agreement**

This agreement pertains to the College-Level Examination Program, Advanced Placement Program of the College Board, and Institutional Examinations.

- A. Credit by examination will be recorded on the academic transcripts of the granting community college using the grading symbol “T”.
- B. The type of examination (title and/or subject), should be noted on the transcript.
- C. Credit by examination will not be granted:
  - 1. if it duplicates courses previously passed or failed;
  - 2. For a course for which the student does not meet the stated prerequisite(s) listed in the granting community college’s catalog; and
  - 3. for a course which is a prerequisite to one for which credit has previously been earned.
- D. Credit by examination granted in accordance with this agreement will be accepted for transfer provided the transcript shows at least 12 semester hours of residence credit.

### **College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) Credit**

- A. The credit-granting institution will determine the amount of credit to be awarded for the successful completion of each CLEP examination.
- B. No more than 30 semester hours will be awarded for the successful completion of CLEP examinations.
- C. Fifty (50) will be the minimum scaled score (equivalent to a grade of “C” in the corresponding course) for credit awarded in all subjects, with the exception of Level 2 French, German, and Spanish.

Sixty-two (62) for French language, 63 for German language, and 66 for Spanish language will be the minimum scaled scores (equivalent to a grade of “C” in the corresponding courses) for credit awarded in Level 2 (four-semester) foreign language examinations.

### **Advanced Placement Program (APP) of the College Board Credit**

- A. The credit-granting institution will determine the credit to be awarded for the successful completion of each advanced placement program exam.
- B. A score of “3” will be the minimum score for credit awarded.

## **Institutional Examinations**

- A. Examinations will be limited to courses offered in the current catalog of the granting institution.
- B. Credit granted will be equal to the catalog course.
- C. The minimum performance level for earned credit will be equal to a “C” grade or higher.

The chair of the LACTS will initiate a meeting each spring, where the current agreement is reviewed by the following:

- 1. Arts and Science Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
- 2. Deans of Liberal Arts—Iowa Public Universities
- 3. Chief Student Services Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
- 4. Directors of Admissions—Iowa Public Universities
- 5. Career and Technical Deans—Iowa Community Colleges

Continuation of the agreement remains in effect until such time as all cooperating institutions formally approve any revisions.

Approved: 03/26/80  
Revised: 04/16/04  
Reaffirmed: 04/16/10

## **Career and Technical Programs in Electronics/ Electronics-Based Technology Agreement**

Graduates of Iowa community college's electronics/electronics-based technology programs who are accepted at an Iowa public university will meet the standards as outlined below and will be granted transfer credit as outlined below.

1. The electronics/electronics-based technology curriculum is specifically recommended by the Iowa community colleges career-technical deans group in the statement of approved courses, competencies, and credit recommendations as agreed to by the public universities.
2. Students must have received the Associate of Applied Science degree (Associate of Science degree in the case of Northeast Iowa Community College) and must have attained a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale.
3. This agreement will not supersede any existing program-to-program articulation agreements or substitute for any reached at a later date between any individual community college and a Regent University.
4. Students may choose the most appropriate transfer credit option offered by the receiving public university.
5. Regardless of the transfer option selected, students will receive 32 semester hours of ungraded transfer credit from the public university. This credit will reduce the additional credit required for a baccalaureate degree to the extent that course equivalencies can be established or that the hours can be applied as elective credit in the program selected by the student.
6. It is understood that the credit accepted for transfer under this agreement will be in addition to transferable and graded arts and sciences credit earned at the respective community college.
7. Of the course work earned at a community college, students may apply up to one-half the required total (but not more than 65) semester hours of credit toward a bachelor's degree at a public university.
8. This agreement is effective for students entering a public university beginning fall semester, 1996.

9. The chair of the LACTS will initiate a meeting each spring, where the current agreement is reviewed by the following:

1. Arts and Science Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
2. Deans of Liberal Arts—Iowa Public Universities
3. Chief Student Services Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
4. Directors of Admissions—Iowa Public Universities
5. Career and Technical Deans—Iowa Community Colleges

Continuation of the agreement remains in effect until such time as all cooperating institutions formally approve any revisions.

Approved: 02/16/96

Revised: 04/16/04

Revised: 04/15/05

Reaffirmed: 04/16/10

## Awarding and Transferring College Credit for Educational Experience in the Armed Forces

Iowa's community colleges and public universities in Iowa agree that:

1. Credit for military courses will be granted according to the guidelines in the American Council on Education's *Guide to Credit for Educational Experiences in the Armed Forces* when that recommendation is for lower and/or upper division baccalaureate degrees. The receiving institution will determine applicability of transfer credit to specific degree programs.
2. Although community colleges may adopt their own institutional policies for awarding credit for military experiences, the public universities will not accept for transfer any credit earned based on recommendations by the American Council on Education for:
  - a. Basic Training
  - b. Military Occupational Specialist (MOS)
  - c. Career and Technical Training
3. The chair of the LACTS will initiate a meeting each spring, where the current agreement is reviewed by the following:
  - a. Arts and Science Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
  - b. Deans of Liberal Arts—Iowa Public Universities
  - c. Chief Student Services Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
  - d. Directors of Admissions—Iowa Public Universities
  - e. Career and Technical Deans—Iowa Community Colleges

Continuation of the agreement remains in effect until such time as all cooperating institutions formally approve any revisions.

Approved: 02/16/96  
Revised: 04/16/04  
Revised: 04/15/08  
Reaffirmed: 04/16/10



## Evaluating International Student Academic Credentials

Iowa's community colleges and Iowa's public universities agree that:

1. The public universities will, upon request of an Iowa community college and in accordance with their own policies and procedures, evaluate academic credentials of international students attending Iowa's community colleges who subsequently plan to transfer to one of the public universities. This service will be provided only once per student prior to application to the public university to which the international student plans to matriculate.
2. The community colleges will provide the necessary official documents. These transcripts must be certified as true copies of original documents. It is imperative that the community colleges have original documents from which they can make certified copies. Additional information needed for an evaluation (i.e., the student's educational chronology, or English translations of academic records), will be submitted by the community colleges if requested by the public universities.
3. The chair of the LACTS will initiate a meeting each spring, where the current agreement is reviewed by the following:
  - a. Arts and Science Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
  - b. Deans of Liberal Arts—Iowa Public Universities
  - c. Chief Student Services Administrators—Iowa Community Colleges
  - d. Directors of Admissions—Iowa Public Universities
  - e. Career and Technical Deans—Iowa Community Colleges

Continuation of the agreement remains in effect until such time as all cooperating institutions formally approve any revisions.

Approved: 09/19/79

Revised: 04/16/04

Revised: 04/18/08

Reaffirmed: 04/16/10

## LACTS MEMBERS – 2010-2011

<p>Michael Barron Assistant Provost for Enrollment Services and Director, Office of Admissions The University of Iowa 107 Calvin Hall Iowa City, Iowa 52242 319/335-1548; 319/335-1535 (FAX) michael-barron@uiowa.edu</p>	<p>Christie M. Kangas (Chair) Director of Admissions University of Northern Iowa 002 Gilchrist Hall Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0018 319/273-2281; 319/273-2885 (FAX) christie.kangas@uni.edu</p>
<p>Laura J. Doering Senior Associate Registrar and Director Transfer Relations Iowa State University 214 Alumni Hall Ames, Iowa 50011-2010 515/294-0760; 515/294-1088 (FAX) ljdoeri@iastate.edu</p>	<p>Robin Shaffer Lilienthal Provost Iowa Valley Community College District 123 6th Avenue West Grinnell, Iowa 50112 641/236-0513, Ext. 2202; 641/236-0036 (FAX) robin.lilienthal@iavalley.edu</p>
<p>Diana Gonzalez (Ex-Officio—Board of Regents, State of Iowa) Chief Academic Officer Board of Regents, State of Iowa Urbandale, Iowa 50311 515/281-3934; 515/281-6420 (FAX) gonzalez@iastate.edu</p>	<p>Roger Utman (Ex-Officio—Iowa Department of Education) Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation Iowa Department of Education Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146 515/281-8260; 515/281-6544 (FAX) roger.utman@iowa.gov</p>
<p>Beth Ingram (Ex-Officio—Council of Provosts) Office of the Provost Associate Provost—Undergraduate Education University of Iowa 111 Jessup Hall Iowa City, Iowa 52242 319-335-0148; 319/335-3560 (FAX) beth-ingram@uiowa.edu</p>	<p>Kathleen Van Steenhuyse, Dean Social Sciences and Career Option Programs Kirkwood Community College 6301 Kirkwood Boulevard, SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406 319/398-4969; 319/398-1021 (FAX) kvanste@kirkwood.edu</p>
<p>Mark Johnson (Ex-Officio—Community College Chief Academic Officers) Vice President for Academic Affairs North Iowa Area Community College 500 College Drive Mason City, Iowa 50401 641/422-4002; 641/423-1711 (FAX) johnsmar@niacc.edu</p>	<p>Laurie A. Wolf (Secretary) Executive Dean, Student Services Des Moines Area Community College 2006 South Ankeny Boulevard Ankeny, Iowa 50023 515/964-6437; 515/965-7154 (FAX) lawolf@dmacc.edu</p>